

The Engine Trail

At the heart of the museum is a unique collection of giant water-pumping engines, most of which have been fully restored. The engines help to tell the story of London's water supply and explain how London became the city it is today.

Please use this map to plan your tour.



1. The **Maudslay** was the first engine to be installed here in 1838 and is only one of its kind left in the world. Find out about the man who was killed when working with this enormous engine.

2. **Bull** engines were very popular. They were cheaper to purchase and could produce the same amount of power as a beam engine, despite taking up half the amount of room.

3. The enormous cast-iron beam above the **Boulton and Watt** engine looks strong, but in 1862 one half of the beam on the East engine snapped. Fortunately nobody was hurt. As a result all of the beams at Kew were strengthened using straps that are still in place today.

4. The **Ninety-inch** engine helped to build London into the city it is today. It was powerful enough to supply water to the

upper floors of buildings. This meant that people could live in taller buildings with a water supply close at hand.

5. This **Hundred-inch** engine was one of the largest Cornish steam engines ever built. Most of the engine beams at Kew were reinforced, but the company thought that the sheer size of the Hundred-Inch made it unbreakable. They were wrong. The beam on this engine snapped in 1879.

Steam Hall

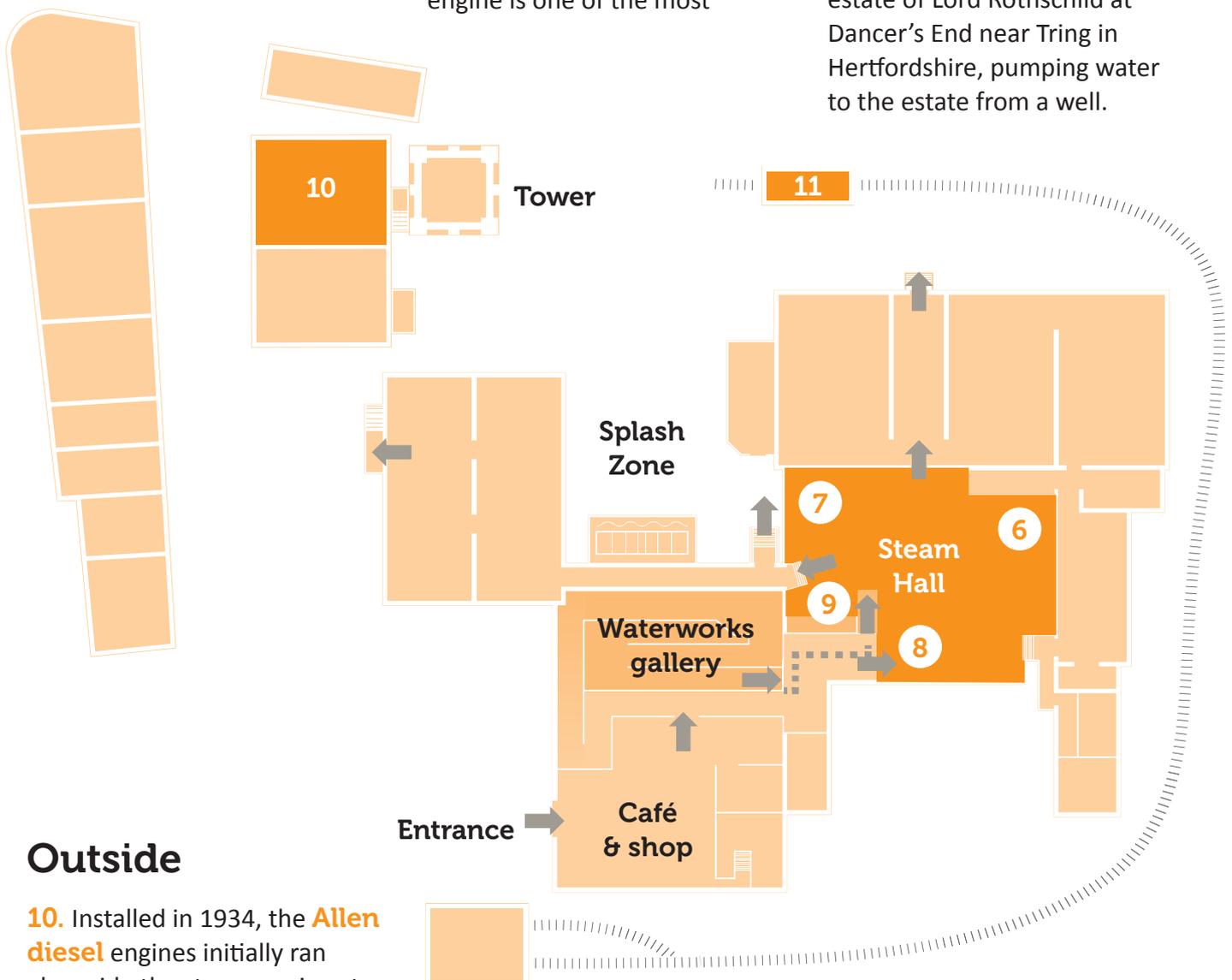
6. The **Waddon** was the last steam water-pumping engine in active service in the UK and was still in use until it was retired in 1983. Restoration of the Waddon was carried out by volunteers and completed in September 1990.

7. Rotative beam engines, such as the **Easton and Amos**, played an important part in the Industrial Revolution. Many of the necessities and luxuries we enjoy today can trace their roots back to when engines like this became common.

8. The **Triple Expansion** engine is one of the most

efficient and well engineered steam engines ever used for water supply. Similar engines were also popular for use in steam ships such as the Titanic.

9. The **Dancer's End** engine is unusual in the museum's collection. It was once used domestically on the private estate of Lord Rothschild at Dancer's End near Tring in Hertfordshire, pumping water to the estate from a well.



Outside

10. Installed in 1934, the **Allen diesel** engines initially ran alongside the steam engines to provide extra pumping power in preparation for the hot summer months. Ten years later all of the steam engines had been retired.

11. Steam engine Why would a pumping station need a railway? Check out the website

to find out when you can ride the Thomas Wicksteed steam railway.